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Mansfield Backs Rusk on Secrecy

United Press International

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield said yesterday that his "personal feeling" is that Secretary of State Dean Rusk should testify publicly on Vietnam but he is willing to subordinate that sentiment in view of circumstances.

The Montana Democrat, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which has asked President Johnson to send Rusk up to testify in public, told reporters:

"In view of the situation (in Asia) it might be better and more appropriate if he ap-

peared in executive session. He has said he would do that at any time."

The Committee voted Wednesday to invite Mr. Johnson to instruct Rusk to appear publicly before the Committee on Vietnam.

Mansfield conceded that there is a "good argument" in the Committee's feeling that since Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara answered questions on Vietnam Sunday on the NBC "Meet the Press" television program, he should be willing to appear before the Commit-

tee to answer Senators' questions.

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), told the Senate the Committee not only wanted to see Rusk but wanted to meet personally with the President at the White House.

Morse recalled that in 1919, President Wilson met with the Foreign Relations Committee to discuss the peace treaty with Germany and a verbatim transcript of the session was made public afterwards.